Final Sources Assignment

Question: My mother was recently diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer. The only thing we know is that it is not like regular cancer where there is a lump in the breast – instead the cancer is spread throughout the breast. I’d like to find more information about this kind of cancer, including survival rates and treatments.

Dear Ms. Patron,

Let me begin by emphasizing that I am not a medical doctor and am not qualified to give medical advice. However, I have found some good resources that I hope will help you and your mother learn more about inflammatory breast cancer (IBC).

• A great place to start is Medline Plus (www.medline.gov). A general search for “inflammatory breast cancer” in quotations gives multiple results, but the most helpful result is “Inflammatory Breast Cancer: Questions and Answers” (http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Sites-Types/IBC). This relatively recent article was last updated in 2006, and it is provided by the National Cancer Institute. The article gives a great overview of IBC. Additionally, it gives the prognosis for patients with IBC (five-year survival rate between 25 and 50 percent), with the important caveat that such statistics are averages and cannot be used to predict what will happen to a particular patient. It also explains that IBC is diagnosed as either stage IIIB or stage IV breast cancer. The Medical Encyclopedia provided by Medline Plus gives the five-year survival rate for stage IIIB breast cancer (54 percent) and for stage IV breast cancer (20 percent). (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000913.htm).

• MayoClinic.com gives another good online overview of IBC, covering its definition, symptoms, causes, risk factors, tests/diagnosis, treatments/drugs, and coping/support (http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/inflammatory-breast-cancer/DS00632/DSECTION=coping-and-support).

• The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization with a website that includes another helpful overview of IBC (http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/About-Breast-Cancer/What-Is-Breast-Cancer/Inflammatory-Breast-Cancer.aspx). It cites survival rates similar to those cited above, but also gives reasons for factors that impact the lower survival rate of IBC compared to other breast cancers.

• For more information on the treatment of inflammatory breast cancer, see these resources:
“Inflammatory Breast Cancer: Questions and Answers” (cited above) gives a thorough overview of treatment options for IBC, and includes links to more information for selected treatments. Additionally, “Treatment Options for Inflammatory Breast Cancer” (http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/breast/Patient/page7) is another webpage provided by the National Cancer Institute. Although it doesn’t seem to provide much information that the previous article did not already provide, it provides a quick reference.

Although the 2nd edition of the Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer (2006) does not provide information specific to IBC, it does have a lot of information on general breast cancer treatment. You can use the index to look up information on the specific treatment options suggested by the National Cancer Institute.

To find out more about participating in clinical trials for IBC, go to ClinicalTrials.gov (http://clinicaltrials.gov) to search for clinical trials for inflammatory breast cancer. Search “inflammatory breast cancer” in quotations for trials specific to IBC. You can also look more generally at all trials for breast cancer by selecting “List studies by Condition” (located on the left), “Cancers and Other Neoplasms,” and then “Breast Neoplasms.”

Pub Med provides an index to medical publications, and more technical information on treatments of IBC is included, although they are written for a more specialized audience. A couple of very recent and potentially helpful articles I found include:


Although these articles may be difficult for someone not in a medical field to understand, it could be potentially helpful to share them with your oncologist to make sure he or she is aware of the most recent developments.

Alt-HealthWatch, a database available through EBSCO, is a good way to find alternative treatment methods. Although there really is not much available specific to IBC besides an interesting general article on IBC (Renki, Margaret. “Fighting the Cancer a Mammo Can’t Catch.” Health 22.5 (2008).), using the thesaurus to find a more general subject heading (BREAST – Cancer – Treatment) leads to many articles on breast cancer treatment generally. Another good database to check in EBSCO that uses the same subject headings is Health Source – Consumer Edition.

Although information on IBC is relatively limited due to the rarity of the condition, most of the websites discussed above have information on breast
cancer generally. In particular, the National Cancer Institute has a very informative PDF document that might of interest to you: “Breast Cancer Facts and Figures 2007-2008” (http://www.cancer.org/docroot/STT/stt_0_2007.asp?sitearea=STT&level=1). If you would like more information on resources relevant to general breast cancer, let me know and I would be glad to compile a list.

- Doctors will, of course, be able to provide you more information about IBC and its survival rates and treatment options. The American Medical Association offers a free DoctorFinder for Patients (http://webapps.ama-assn.org/doctorfinder/html/patient.html) that searches their database of licensed physicians. Additionally, Medline Plus maintains an extensive listing of online directories to health professionals, services, and facilities (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/directories.html).

I hope this information is helpful; however, it is not what you were looking for or if you need any help accessing or using any of these resources, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ms. Reference Librarian

Question: I am studying Shakespeare's Richard III in my college literature class. I am required to pick a character in the play and compare him or her to the historical person. I have decided to study Elizabeth Woodville. Where can I find information?

In the reference interview, the patron clarified that she is looking for information on both the historical Elizabeth Woodville (biographical information, information on the role she played in Richard III’s ascendancy to the kingship, support for the people against him, the War of the Roses, etc.) and the character in the play (character analysis, literary criticism, etc.) and that she needs books, book chapters, and articles.

Dear Ms. Patron,

Below you will find a list of resources and suggested databases for finding relevant information:

- Using OCLC Worldcat and Bowker’s Books in Print, I compiled a list of books and chapters about the historical Elizabeth Woodville. I was careful to search for both “Woodville” and “Wydeville,” since she is known by both names. There are many books available on English queens or the Wars of the Roses generally that you may search for if these resources are not adequate, but these books, in particular, should give you comprehensive information about her life and involvement in the historical events portrayed in Richard III:
There are several different biographical articles available on Elizabeth Woodville:

- **The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography** is a valuable resource, with a thorough biographical article on Elizabeth Woodville, including information on her involvement in politics and the usurpation of Richard III. This also contains a nice list of additional resources. Just search for “Elizabeth Woodville” in the person search box to locate the article.
- **Biography Resource Center** has a brief biographical article taken from *The Encyclopedia of World Biography*.
- **The Biography and Genealogy Master Index** has multiple citations for biographical articles on Elizabeth Woodville. Again, be sure to search for both “Wydeville” and “Woodville.” If you see any citations that you would like, we can try to locate them for you in our reference collection or through interlibrary loan.

Additionally, you might find scholarly articles on Elizabeth Woodville to be of use. A good database to search is the International Medieval Bibliography – Online. I suggest that you take advantage of the controlled vocabulary and search for “Elizabeth Woodville, queen-consort of Edward IV of England” in “Persons, Families, and Texts” under “Classification Details.” This search results in 22 entries, many of which are relevant to your paper.

Information on the character of Elizabeth Woodville found in William Shakespeare’s *Richard III* can be found in books and articles indexed under two key databases:
The MLA International Bibliography is a comprehensive resource for articles of literary criticism. Although it is not very fruitful to search for articles on “Elizabeth Woodville,” a search for (“female characters” and “Richard III”) takes advantage of the index’s controlled vocabulary and results in some relevant books and articles.

Literature Resource Center offers some potentially valuable overviews of the play. Just search for “Richard III” and navigate to the “Topic & Work Overviews” tab. It also contains some additional articles on the female characters in the play.

I hope this information is what you needed, but if it is not, just let me know! I would be glad to work with you more to make sure you have all the resources you need to write a great paper.

Sincerely,

Ms. Reference Librarian